

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT HENRY L. TREWHITT PAGE FOUR BY-LINER
BALTIMORE SUN WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 HEADED "ANALYSIS: U.N.
SHOWS CONCERN FOR U.S. POLITICS."

2. BY KEEPING VIETNAM WAITING ON THE UNITED NATIONS DOOR-
STEP, THE SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY QUIETLY HONORED THE
PRE-ELECTION PARALYSIS IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

3. AFTER NOVEMBER 2, AMERICAN DIPLOMATS SUGGEST, THE
UNITED STATES MAY BE MORE FLEXIBLE. UNTIL THEN THE UNWRIT-
TEN RULE OF THE MOMENT HOLDS: DON'T MAKE WAVES. IF WAVES
ARE MADE, MAKE THEM CONSERVATIVE WAVES.

4. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, INFORMED OFFICIALS SUGGEST, THAT
MEANS NO U.S. INITIATIVES ON SUCH SENSITIVE ISSUES AS THE
MIDDLE EAST AND--DESPITE SPECULATION TO THE CONTRARY--A NEW
ARMS CONTROL TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

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5. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS HENRY A. KISSINGER'S URGENT

PEACEMAKING SAFARI IN SOUTHERN AFRICA--AND THAT HAS BEEN CRAFTED TO KEEP POLITICAL RISK TO THE MINIMUM. IN SUM, AS

A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL PUTS IT, "THE U.S. IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST STATUS QUO POWER UNTIL NOVEMBER."

6. AMERICAN DIPLOMATS SPECULATE FREELY THAT PRESIDENT FORD WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN A FOREIGN POLICY COUP TO STRENGTHEN HIS CANDIDACY AGAINST JIMMY CARTER. BUT AS THE CASE USUALLY IS, THE PROMISE OF A COUP IS MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE POLITICAL RISK THIS CLOSE TO AN ELECTION.

7. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MATTER OF VIETNAM HAD NOTHING TO OFFER BUT TROUBLE. FOR SIX MONTHS WASHINGTON AND HANOI, THE RECENT ANTAGONISTS, HAD BEEN EXCHANGING MESSAGES, EDGING TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ONLY THE MINIMUM OF PREDICTABLE CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES.

8. BY LATE LAST MONTH, HOWEVER, MR. KISSINGER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, HAD BEEN UNABLE TO EXTRACT EVEN THE ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING AMERICANS THAT HAD BECOME THE MINIMUM U.S. CONDITION. WITH VIETNAM'S U.N. APPLICATION COMING UP YESTERDAY, MR. FORD WAS LEFT WITH NO POLITICAL CHOICE. THE U.S. WOULD VETO.

9. PRIVATELY THE U.S. WAS NOT SO HARSH. IN FACT, BOTH WASHINGTON AND HANOI QUIETLY ACCEPTED--AND MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED--A PRAGMATIC FRENCH PROPOSAL SIMPLY TO PUT OFF THE QUESTION UNTIL NOVEMBER, WHEN THE POLITICAL RISK WILL BE REDUCED.

10. QUITE POSSIBLY MR. FORD WILL BE FACED WITH OTHER IMPORTANT, UNAVOIDABLE DECISIONS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BEFORE NOVEMBER 2. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT HE WILL NOT GENERATE ISSUES HIMSELF.

11. THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION FIT OBVIOUSLY INTO A PATTERN THAT ENCOURAGES CAUTION. FOR THE RECORD, THE ADMINISTRATION SAYS NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A NEW TREATY ARE CONTINUING AND WILL BE CONCLUDED AS SOON

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AS POSSIBLE.

12. BUT ANY AGREEMENT ON OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, EVEN ONE THAT MIGHT SATISFY THE ADMINISTRATION, WILL STILL BE CONTROVERSIAL. ALMOST CERTAINLY IT WOULD ALIENATE MANY CONSERVATIVES, WHO MIGHT STAY AT HOME ON ELECTION DAY. DESPITE PUBLIC SPECULATION ABOUT A PRE-ELECTION SURPRISE, INFORMED OFFICIALS ASSERT FIRMLY THAT THE PROSPECTS ARE

NEAR ZERO.

13. UNLESS THE SOVIET UNION DECIDES TO CAUSE ADDITIONAL
TROUBLE--WHICH U.S. DIPLOMATS DOUBT--THE LEBANESE CONFLICT

IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT BLOODY BUT PREDICTABLE
COURSE THROUGH ELECTION DAY. EVEN IF THERE WERE NO U.S.
ELECTION, IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT JUDGMENT, THERE PROBABLY
WOULD BE NO OPENING FOR A PUBLIC AMERICAN INITIATIVE BEFORE
THEN.

14. MR. KISSINGER'S ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
APPEARS AS THE EXCEPTION IN THE CURRENT PASSIVE FOREIGN
POLICY. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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